GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RAILWAYS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5814
ANSWERED ON:17.05.2007
FEASIBILITY OF JATROPHA PLANTATION
Acharia Shri Basudeb

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Railways are contemplating to use bio-diesel blended fuel in locomotives starting from 10% to 20% blended diesel;

(b) whether the Railways have also considered floating tenders for bulk buying of bio-diesel;

(c) if so, the details alongwith names of suppliers;

(d) whether Railways have assessed the availability of jatropha based bio-diesel in the country as well as its cost-effectiveness;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether the Railways also examined the feasibility of jatropha plantation and setting up bio-diesel plant on their own to fulfil their huge requirement; and (g) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R.VELU)

(a) Yes, Sir. The successful field trial has been carried out by using 10% blend of bio-diesel on Jan Shatabdi Express between Lucknow and Allahabad.

Further, field trials have also been conducted successfully with 20% blend.

(b) The matter regarding floating of tenders for bulk buying of bio-diesel is under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) & (e) To assess the availability of bio-diesel an expression of interests was called on 20.2.2007 and about 25 parties have participated in the meeting. The cost effectiveness of blending can only be judged after receipt of offers.

(f) & (g) Yes, Sir. Railways have taken up plantation on spare available Railway land and a project for setting up of 4 nos. of esterification plants for producing bio-diesel is being contemplated.